

Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

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REPORT INFORMATION:

1996 Neuwirth, J.L.

Archaeological Investigations at the Sotterley Plantation Slave Cabin, St. Mary's County, Maryland.

Submitted to Sotterley Mansion Foundation

Library ID No: 00006523

Catalog/Shelving ID: ST 140

Research Firm/Institution:

Sotterley Mansion Foundation Archaeological Project

P.O. Box 67

Hollywood, MD 20636

Sites examined:

18ST54

NRHP Eligible: ☒

[Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I ☒

Project Justification:

Phase II ☒

Phase I/II archeological investigations were conducted at the Sotterley Plantation Slave Cabin during two weeks in October of 1995. No previous archeological testing had been done at the location. The study was done in order to comply with both grant and easement requirements prior to proposed implementation of restoration activities at the site of the Slave Cabin. The slave cabin at Sotterley is one of a handful still standing in the county, and the last one on the property.

Phase III

Project Objectives:

- Gather information about the construction sequence of the cabin.
- Determine the presence or absence of intact significant resources adjacent to the cabin that had not been previously identified.
- Determine whether or not a root cellar existed within the structure.
- Gather information about use of the yard space.

Research Potential:

See below for remaining research questions at 18ST54.

REPORT INFORMATION:

1998 Neuwirth, J.L.

1997 Sotterley Slave Cabin Report - Addendum.

Submitted to Sotterley Mansion Foundation

Library ID No: 00006184

Catalog/Shelving ID: ST 140 Add

Research Firm/Institution:

Sotterley Mansion Foundation Archaeological Project

P.O. Box 67

Hollywood, MD 20636

Sites examined:

18ST54

NRHP Eligible: ☒

[Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I ☒

Project Justification:

Phase II ☒

A Phase II mitigative study was conducted at the Sotterley Slave Cabin in 1997 ahead of proposed construction of sand filled trenches along the east and west walls of the cabin to improve drainage, and of a v-shaped retaining wall south of the cabin about 3.048 m down into the ravine. The retaining wall was intended to stabilize the south/rear wall and chimney, which are threatened by the downslope movement of soils into the ravine. The mitigation of resources was limited to those areas that were to be directly impacted by the proposed construction.

Phase III

Project Objectives:

- Determine the presence or absence of artifacts features associated with the cabin in the area of potential impact.
- Recover artifacts and document any features encountered.

Research Potential:

See below for remaining research questions at 18ST54.

REPORT INFORMATION:

1999 Harmon, J.M. and Neuwirth, J.L.

Research Firm/Institution:

Sotterley Mansion Foundation Archaeological Project

Sites examined:

18ST54

NRHP Eligible: ☒[Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I ☒

Phase II

Phase III

Project Justification:

From August of 1997 to January of 1998, an intensive Phase I survey of Sotterley Plantation was undertaken. The project was funded by a Maryland Historical Trust Non-Capital Grant. The purpose of the project was to conduct archeological and historical research to support the Sotterley Foundation's interpretive programs at the Sotterley Plantation. A second goal was the completion of a cultural resources inventory of the property to be used in planning changes of land use.

Project Objectives:

-Conduct archeological and historical research.

-Produce a cultural resources inventory of the property.

Research Potential:

See below for remaining research questions at 18ST54.

REPORT INFORMATION:

1999 King, J.A.

Archaeological Investigations at the "New Roome," Sotterley Plantation.

Submitted to Sotterley Plantation Foundation

Library ID No: 97000234

Catalog/Shelving ID: ST 177

Research Firm/Institution:

Maryland Archaeological Conservation
Laboratory

10515 Mackall Road

St. Leonard, Maryland 20685

Sites examined:

18ST54

NRHP Eligible: ☒[Justification](#)

Project Details:

Phase I

Phase II ☒

Phase III

Project Justification:

In October of 1998, archeological investigations were undertaken at the west wing or "New Roome" of the Manor House at Sotterley Plantation (18ST54) in advance of termite control measures requiring ground disturbance in the vicinity of the house. At the time of the study, little was known about the archeological deposits directly associated with the house. No systematic archeological program had been conducted at the Manor House in order to determine the extent of disturbances caused by extensive renovations in the early 20th century. The results from the study could then be used for interpretative and planning purposes as Sotterley Plantation implemented its Preservation Plan.

Project Objectives:

-Document and interpret the artifacts and stratigraphy in association with the New Roome.

Research Potential:

Taken as a whole, the Sotterley Plantation Site (18ST54) comprises an archeological landscape that reflects human modification of the local environment from as early as 3,000 years before the present. The history of Sotterley Plantation is an exemplum of southern Maryland's past – a history of uniquely Chesapeake tidewater lifeways, a history of Native American cultures in the Bay, a history of the rise and decline of tidewater tobacco plantations, of slavery and freedom, and of rural lives in an increasingly industrializing state. Archeological deposits associated with the Manor House as well as other buildings on the property contain artifacts related to the earliest periods of occupation at the plantation (18th century) through the 20th century. Ground-disturbing activities at the site should be minimized as much as possible in areas of high archeological potential. When disturbance is unavoidable, archeological resources should be carefully identified and documented by qualified personnel.